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ABRAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1923.

Springfield House,

Abram, near Wigan.

April, 1924.

To the Chairman and Members of the Abram Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report on the Health of your Township for the year ending 31st December, 1923.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (Acres)	1,984
Population (1923)	6,987
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	1,297
Number of Families or separate occupiers (1921) ...	1,516

Rateable Value £40,951 0s. 0d.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate £167 0s. 0d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.—One hundred and four births have been registered—60 males and 44 females—giving a birth-rate of 14.8. This is a very low birth-rate, being 10.1 less than the mean of 10 years, and 1.8 less than the previous year. Two of the births are illegitimate—1 boy and 1 girl—both belonging to the Abram Brow Ward. There is an increase of 11 males, and a decrease of 24 females on the previous year.

The low birth-rate is slightly compensated by there being a reduction in the death-rate.

DEATHS.—Eighty-four deaths have been registered—51 males and 33 females—showing a death-rate of 12.0. This is a decrease of 2.1 on the previous year and on the mean of ten years. There are 15 deaths less than last year—a decrease of 10 males and 5 females.

The causes of death are:—

	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	4	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	1	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	6	—
Rheumatic Fever	1	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	4	—
Heart Disease	6	3
Bronchitis	7	8
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	7
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	1	—
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	1	—
Appendicitis	1	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—
Nephritis	—	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	2	4
Suicide	1	—
Other Deaths from Violence ...	3	—
Other Defined Diseases	10	7

The death-rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System is 0.85 against 0.71 last year, and .77 mean of ten years.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases.				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary,		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—1								
1—5							1	
5—10				1				1
10—15								
15—20			2	1				
20—25	2	1		1	1	2		
25—35	2	3	1					
35—45	2	1			1			
45—55	2							
55—65					2			
65 and upwards								
	8	5	3	3	4	2	1	1
Totals	13		6		6		2	

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The notification of cases of Tuberculosis in the district is satisfactory, all cases having been notified as suffering from that disease previous to death. There has been no necessity for taking any action.

No women have died in consequence of Child-birth, from Sepsis or other causes. This result is a repetition of last year and is very satisfactory.

There have been 16 deaths in infants under 1 year of age—7 males, 9 females—giving an infantile death-rate of 153. This is an increase of 42 on last year and 33 on the mean of ten years.

Causes of Death:—Premature Birth 3, Congenital Abnormalities 3, Convulsions 2, Gastritis 1, Gastro Enteritis 1, Dentition and Complications 3, Hæmorrhage of Cord 1, Broncho Pneumonia 2.

Children of all ages dying from Measles or Whooping Cough: Nil. One child under 2 years of age died from Diarrhœa. Last year 1 child died from Measles, and none from Whooping Cough or Diarrhœa.

VITAL STATISTICS OF EACH WARD.

	Abram Brow· Ward	Bamfurlong Ward	Bickershaw Ward	Plank Lane Ward
No. of Houses	401	434	258	206
Population	2160	2330	1387	1110
Total Number of Deaths	24	29	16	15
Death Rate	11·1	12·0	11·5	13·6
No. of Births { Males	18	13	15	14
No. of Births { Females	9	14	12	9
Birth Rate	12·5	11·5	19·4	20·7
Deaths under One Year	6	5	3	2
Death Rate of Infants under One Year per 1000 Births	222	185	111	87

AGE INCIDENCE.—Deaths from Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

PNEUMONIA.

Under 1 year	1
1—2 years	1
2—3 years	2
4—5 years	2
5—10 years	—
10—15 years	1
45—65 years	1
65 and over	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There have been no cases of Smallpox in the district.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1923.

	CASES NOTIFIELD.													HOSPITAL.
		YEARS.												
	Total Cases at all Ages.	Under 1	1–2	2–3	3–4	4–5	5–10	10–15	15–20	20–35	35–45	45–65	65 and over	Total Deaths	Total Cases Removed to Hospital
Diphtheria and Membraneous Croup	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarler Fever	7	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Acute Primary Pneumonia. Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	44	3	3	6	6	3	9	1	1	3	4	2	3	9	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	3	2	—	6	
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	—	—	—	2	
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
TOTAL	73	3	3	6	6	4	14	5	5	13	7	4	3	18	9

Deaths in hospital of persons belonging to the district: Nil.

Of Ophthalmia Neonatorum there have been no cases.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

It has not been found necessary to close any of the Schools on account of any disease.

There has been a noticeable increase from last year in cases of Lobar Pneumonia.

LABORATORY WORK.—Two Throat Swabs were examined for Diphtheria. 12,000 units of Diphtheria Antitoxine is kept at the residence of the Medical Officer of Health, and is supplied free of charge to Medical Practitioners for cases in this district.

NURSING AT HOME.—Under the Child Welfare Scheme the Health Visitor attends cases of Measles, and renders aid where it is considered necessary. The increase of Pneumonia in the district is a disturbing feature, and in most cases the relatives are not equal to the nursing required.

MIDWIVES.—There are four registered Midwives resident and practising in this district. Their methods are very good, and attention to Asepsis is adhered to.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—The Centre is situated behind the Council Offices. It is under the authority of the Abram Urban District Council, who have appointed a Health Visitor and a Medical Superintendent to attend when the Centre is open every alternate Wednesday at 4-0 p.m. Valuable assistance is given gratuitously by the Midwives and other ladies in the district.

It is very pleasing to see an increasing interest being taken in this scheme by the Mothers.

The babies are stripped and weighed and a loss or gain in weight is recorded.

Medical advice is given by the Superintendent to Mothers where their babies are concerned.

Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and Infants are supplied with milk and Virol free of charge when necessary after investigating their pecuniary and domestic circumstances.

HOSPITAL.—The Council have an Infectious Diseases Hospital maintained out of the rates. There are 8 beds for Scarlet Fever and Typhoid cases. There is a small corrugated iron building with beds for 4 Smallpox cases. It stands away from the Fever Hospital.

During the year there were 9 cases of infectious diseases treated.

The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital.

Cases other than infectious may be treated at Wigan, Manchester or Liverpool Hospitals.

AMBULANCE.—There is a horse vehicle for infectious cases; a hand-wheel stretcher for other cases. The Council have now decided to take advantage of a Motor Ambulance kept in the neighbouring district of Hindley, and necessary arrangements are being made.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. RALPH ERSKINE,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

May, 1924.

To the Chairman and Members of the Abram Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to give below a summary of the work carried out in the Inspector of Nuisances and Sanitary Department for the year ending December 31st, 1923.

Stopped Drains opened and cleaned ...	...158
Drains relaid and renewed...	... 14
Ashpits and Closets rebuilt	... 7
Defective Ashpits and Closets repaired ...	... 30
Dustbins and Pails renewed	... 12
Water Closets repaired	... 5
New Water Closets	... 2
Privies converted into Water Closets ...	... 6
Paving Backyards and round Gullies ...	... 20
Defective Slop-pipes, Waste Pipes and Vent Shafts repaired	... 25
Keeping Animals as a Nuisance	... 1
Poultry and Pigeons removed from house yards	... 3
Back Passages cleaned and ashed	... 25
Defective Spouts, Roofs, etc., repaired ...	... 87
Houses Limewashed	... 11
Dirty Premises and Foul Privies	... 30
Waterlogged Cellar	... 1
Old Drains Tested with Smoke Machine ...	... 5
Houses Overcrowded	... 1
Accumulation of Manure and Filth	... 1
Van Dwellings in Insanitary Situations ...	... 2
	446

Fifty-eight Statutory Notices have been served for the abatement of nuisances.

SEWERS.—The sewers continue to be a source of trouble caused by mining subsidence, and about 300 yards of new pipes have been laid in Lee Lane and Park Lane.

SEWAGE WORKS.—These continue in excellent condition and consistently render good samples of effluent. The Mersey and Irwell Committee's list of effluent samples has again been headed.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Workshops:—		
Tinsmith	1	
Cloggers and Shoemakers	4	
	—	5
Workplaces:—		
Dressmakers	5	
Baby Linen	1	
Clogger	3	
	—	9
Bakehouses		11
		—
Total		25
		=

DISINFECTION.—No schools have been fumigated and only 20 houses with sulphur. The following articles passed through the steam disinfector:—

Beds	4
Quilts	8
Sheets	6
Blankets	7
Dresses	2
Underclothing	9
Coats	3
Sundry Articles	25
Total	64

NIGHTSOIL.—Ashpits emptied 3,709; Bins and Pails cleared 3,800; and about 3,500 loads of refuse removed.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSE.—Systematic and special inspections are made, and the premises are kept in a satisfactory condition.

NEW PROPERTY.—One new house has been built and a farmhouse converted into two cottages.

I beg to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WM. H. ROBY,

Sanitary Inspector.

COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ABRAM.

PARTICULARS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1923.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) 1,984.
Population (estimated 1923) 6,987.
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1921) 1,297.
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921) 1,516.
Rateable value, £40,951.
Sum represented by a penny rate, £167.

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1923.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Births:—			
Legitimate	102	59	43
Illegitimate	2	1	1
Deaths	84	51	33

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth: From sepsis nil; from other causes nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age: Total 16. Legitimate 16. Illegitimate nil.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) nil.

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) 1.

Specify any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment: Pneumonia and Tuberculosis have been rather more prevalent.

Rate per 1000 of Population.

	Birth-rate	Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1000 Births
Mean of 10 years 1913-1922	24.9	14.1	0.77	120
1922	16.6	14.1	0.71	111
1923	14.8	12.0	0.85	153
Increase or Decrease in 1923 on—				
Ten Years' Average	—10.1	—2.1	+0.08	+33
Previous Year	— 1.8	—2.1	+0.14	+42

TABLE B. URBAN DISTRICT OF ABRAM.

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.—Number of cases of infectious disease notified, number of deaths from these diseases, number of cases removed to hospital, and deaths in hospital during the year 1923.

Disease	Total Cases at all Ages	Cases Notified — Years: Under 1	1–2	2–3	3–4	4–5	5–10	10–15	15–20	20–35	35–45	45–65	65 and over	Total Deaths	Hospital: Total Cases removed to Hospital	Hospital: Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district.
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Scarlet Fever	7	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia / Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	44	3	3	6	6	3	9	1	1	3	4	2	3	9	—	—
*Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	3	2	—	6	—	—
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
Diarrhœa, &c. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1		
Totals	73	3	3	6	6	4	14	5	5	13	7	4	3	18	9	Nil

If any of the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in your district state for what period (see previous page): Measles and German Measles nil; Whooping Cough nil; Diarrhœa (under 2 years) nil; Chicken-pox nil; any others nil.

The Ministry of Health's Circular 451 states:—"Where the data are available, the Medical Officer of Health should attempt to measure the influence of domestic overcrowding upon the incidence of notified diseases, especially Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Measles where notifiable, in the area. In some areas, for example, it may be possible to show for invaded households the attack rates per 1,000 persons under 15 not known to have had a previous attack of the disease in question, according as they are housed under different conditions—for example, less than 1 person per room, 1—2 persons per room, more than 2 persons per room. If possible, there should be a separate tabulation of the data relating to (a) cases in which the patient was removed to an isolation hospital, and (b) cases in which the patient was treated at home."

*Observations—The district has been singularly free from Scarlet Fever, Measles, etc. All the cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to Hospital.

*If necessary this matter can be dealt with more fully in the Annual Health Report.

†TUBERCULOSIS.

	‡New Cases				DEATHS (The number of deaths classified should agree with the total supplied to the Register-General.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonry	
Age Period.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5—10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
20—25	2	1	—	1	1	2	—	—
25—35	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	8	5	3	3	4	2	1	1
	13		6		6		2	

†See page 2.

‡All primary notifications should be included, and also any other new cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

What is the ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths? All notified.

In your opinion, is the notification of Tuberculosis in your district efficient? Yes.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify? No.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district? No.

*Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Number Notified	Cases Treated At Home	Cases Treated In Hospital	Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
No cases in district.						

* See page 2.

4.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

Specify any causes of sickness and invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the district during the year. (This should include information obtained from local general practitioners.): There has been a noticeable increase from last year in cases of Lobar Pneumonia.

Number of times School Closure adopted for—Scarlet Fever nil, Whooping Cough nil, Diphtheria nil, Chicken-pox nil, Measles nil, Influenza nil, any other diseases (specify same) nil.

†Number of Reports made under Section 14 (4) Sanitary Officers Order, 1922: Nil. Subjects of Reports: Nil.

† Section 14 (4) requires copies of these Reports to be forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE (C).

URBAN DISTRICT OF ABRAM.

5.—SUMMARY (FOR REFERENCE) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Professional Nursing in the Home. Arrangements in the district for (a) General Nursing: District Nurse resigned during the previous year. No new appointment yet made. (b) For Infectious Diseases, e.g., Measles, etc.: Health Visitor assists in cases of Measles.

Midwives.—Is any midwife employed by or assisted by the *Local* Authority? No.

Number of Midwives on the County Council Register, 31/12/1923. Number on Register 4. Number actually practising 4.

Any comments as to the sufficiency or otherwise of the Midwifery service? Satisfactory.

What action has been taken by the Council respecting Child Welfare Work? Has a local Child Welfare Centre been established? If so, where? A Local Child Welfare Centre is established behind the Council Offices, at which the Medical Superintendent, Health Visitor, and Midwives attend.

Give days and time open: The Centre is open every alternate Wednesday at 4 p.m.

Have any of the following been provided in your district? Give name, situation, nature of accommodation, and by whom provided:

Day Nursery? No.

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children. No.
School Clinic. No.
Tuberculosis Clinic. No.
Venereal Diseases Clinic. No.

Has any local scheme been prepared in regard to the Supply of Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and of Milk for Infants? In necessitous cases milk and Virol are supplied free of charge. In some cases the recipients pay part.

Is there a District Nursing Association in the District? Yes.
How many District Nurses employed? None at present.
If so, does any arrangement exist between the Council and the Association in respect of Child Welfare Work? Previously a District Nurse employed who gave her services at the Child Welfare Centre. In return the Local Council contributed £25 to the Nursing Association.

Does the Association undertake—(a) *Midwifery Cases? No. (b) Monthly Nursing? No.
(*Attendance at confinement without a Medical Practitioner.)

Hospital Accommodation provided or available—
For Smallpox: Corrugated Iron Building.
Where situate? In vicinity of Fever Hospital.
For other Infectious Diseases? Brick Building Infectious Hospital.
Where situate? In the township.
†Joint or otherwise? Provided by Council and maintained out of rates.

† If you have the joint use of Isolation Hospital belonging to some other Authority, state nature of "Agreement," or "Arrangement."
Is any Retaining Fee paid?
Number of Beds available for your District. For Smallpox 4.
For other Infectious Diseases 8.

Is there any Hospital Accommodation in the district for:—
(a) Maternity Cases? No.
(b) Children? No.
(c) Tuberculosis? No.

Give postal address of Union Infirmary or other Public Institution in District. None.

Disinfection:—

Number of Houses Disinfected? 20. Method (state disinfectant used): Sulphur.

Are Houses disinfected after (a) Phthisis? Yes. (b) Measles? Occasionally.

*Apparatus used for Clothing, Bedding, etc. (steam or otherwise)? Steam.

Number of Articles disinfected? 64.

Where is Apparatus situated? At Infectious Diseases Hospital.

*If Apparatus at Hospital is available, is it used for the disinfection of Clothing, Bedding, etc., of Patients not removed to the Hospital? Yes.

Ambulance facilities:—

(a) For Infectious Cases? Horse vehicle for infectious cases.

(b) For Non-infectious and Accident Cases? Hand-wheel stretcher. Three collieries in the district have their own ambulances.

6.—LABORATORY WORK.

Bacteriological Examinations. Number of Specimens examined:—

Blood nil. Sputum nil. Milk nil. Throat Swabs 2. Swabs for Ophthalmia Neonatorum nil. Others nil.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin Order, 1910. Is a supply of Anti-toxin kept within the district? Yes. If so, where? House of Medical Officer of Health.

Amount used during 1923? 12,000 units. Other Sera or Vaccines used: Nil.

7.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Tabular Summary of the work of the Sanitary Department:—

Source of Water Supply—Liverpool Corporation, Rivington Waterworks. What is its condition? Good.

Possibilities of contamination? Open service reservoir.

Any insufficiency, and where? None.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year? 500 yards of 4in. Main to supply one of the Collieries.

Are Scavenging and Removal of House Refuse carried out satisfactorily for whole of district? Yes.

How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses)? Sanitary Authority.

Are motor vehicles used? No.

If Privy Middens exist, are they emptied by day or night? By day.

How is the Refuse disposed of? Tips on farm land. Soiled over afterwards.

Has a Destructor been provided? No.

Sewage Disposal Works:—

Method of Treatment? Septic tanks, bacteria beds, and land filtration.

What is the character of the Drainage System? Any developments during year? Separate in main streets.

Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system? None.

Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, etc.? New drains tested with smoke, also old ones when desired. Sewers flushed and cleaned.

Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams? None.

Canal Boats: Number Inspected 42. Number of Infringements of Acts 9.

Bakehouses: Number 11. What is their condition? Fair.

Slaughterhouses: What is their condition? Satisfactory. Number Registered nil. Number Licensed 1. Has a Public Abattoir been provided? No.

Common Lodging-houses: Number nil. Are they Registered? No.

Workshops and Workplaces: What is their condition? Generally satisfactory.

Schools: Sanitary condition fairly satisfactory. Two yards still unpaved and very dusty in summer.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—Are they periodically inspected? Yes. What is their condition? Fair.

Have Regulations been made under the Order of the L.G.B.? Give date. Yes, 1905. Are they enforced? Yes.
Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow? (a) Where cows are habitually grazed? 500. (b) Where cows are not habitually grazed? 500.

Cowkeepers. Total number of Cowkeepers 12. Number on Register 15. Number of Inspections during year 20.

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers). Total number of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors (other than Cowkeepers) nil. Number on Register nil.

Any arrangements for veterinary inspection of dairy cows? Give particulars. No.

Action taken (if any) as to tuberculous milk? None.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923—
Number of Dealers' licences issued in respect of: "Certified" Milk nil. "Grade A" Milk nil. "Grade A" (Tuberculin Tested) Milk nil.
Number of licences issued in respect of "Pasteurised" Milk: Pasteurising Plants nil. Retail Distributors 12.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts and Milk and Cream Regulations—
Action taken by Local Authority (if any) nil.

Inspection of Food:—
Action taken in respect of places where food is prepared: Accasional inspections made.
Any food poisoning? Action taken? None.

Amount of food condemned or surrendered as unfit for human consumption? State approximately the weight of carcases and of parts:—

(a) Tuberculous carcases and parts. (a) Three parts. $1\frac{3}{4}$ cwts.
(b) Diseased, unsound, or unwholesome meat (other than (a) above). (b) Nil.
(c) Other foodstuffs. (c) Nil.

Number of Legal Proceedings and result? Nil.

Notices served—Nuisances:—

Number of Notices served? Informal 70. Statutory 58. Number of Nuisances abated 350.

Number of Legal Proceedings taken and result? Nil.

Closets and Ashpits:—

Privy Middens: Number of Middens 524. Number of Closets attached to these Middens 813. Number of Pail Closets 28. Number of Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens) 157. Number of Fresh Water Closets 481. Number of Portable Receptacles for refuse 61. Number of Waste Water Closets nil.

Number of Privy Closets converted during 1923? To Fresh W.C.'s 6. To Waste W.C.'s 0. To Pails, etc. 1.

Number of Pail Closets converted to Fresh W.C.'s? Nil. Waste W.C.'s? Nil.

Number of Waste W.C.'s converted to Fresh W.C.'s? Nil.

Is any special effort being made at the present time to abolish privy middens and pail closets in areas where adequate sewers are available? As occasion arises.

Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion? Yes.

If so, how much? Half cost.

What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new property? Fresh water closets.

Smoke Nuisance:—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement: Nil. Number of Observations? 4. Number of Legal Proceedings taken and result? Nil. What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour? None fixed.

Has the Authority adopted:—

"The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890"? No.

"The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890"? Yes.

"The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907"? Yes.

Any other adoptive Act? Nil.

8.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health. Alexander Ralph Erskine.

Salary (including Bonus) as M.O.H., 31/12/1923, £100.

Is he a whole-time Officer? Part time.

Sanitary Inspector. William Henry Roby.

Salary (including Bonus) as Inspector, 31/12/1923, £200.

Is he a whole-time Officer? Part. If not, what other appointments does he hold? Highways Surveyor and Water Engineer.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector. Henry Allen.

Salary (including Bonus), 31/12/1923, £168.

Any other Public Health Officers, such as Health Visitors and Special Nurses; if any, give names, salaries, qualifications and offices held: Mrs. Martha Dainty, Nurse Visitor, C.M.B. £174.

9.—HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total 1.

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts of 1919 or 1923:—

(i.) By the Local Authority nil.

(ii.) By other bodies or persons nil.

Number of houses in course of erection under Council's Building Scheme? Nil.

Financial assistance for purposes of increasing housing accommodation:—

(a) By loans? Nil. (b) By subsidy? Nil.

Number: Nil. Number: Nil.

Amount of loans, Nil. Amount of subsidies, Nil.

Unfit Dwelling-houses:—

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)? 69.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910? 29.

Have the particulars of these inspections been fully recorded as specified in the Regulations? Yes.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation? Nil.

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation? 20.

Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers? 40.

Action under Statutory Powers:—

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs? 20.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—(a) By owners? 20. (b) By Local Authority in default of owners? Nil.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close? Nil.

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied? 20.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied: (a) By owners? 20. (b) By Local Authority in default of owners? Nil.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909:—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders? Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made? Nil.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit? Nil.

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made? Nil.

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders? Nil.

D.—Number of houses demolished voluntarily by owners, or converted to workshops, etc.? Nil.

*Refers only to action taken in reference to housing defects. Notices with regard to drainage and other defects should be included under Sanitary Administration.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1923: Re-draining three farm premises and new sewer Kingsdown Road.

Chief Sanitary Requirements of District: Bolton House Road and Plank Lane Sewage. Council have now decided to proceed with preparation of a pumping scheme.

Signed,

A. RALPH ERSKINE,

Medical Officer of Health.

April, 1924.